

Borough of Weston-super-Mare



Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR
1944

including the
Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and
the Meteorological Report.



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Borough of Weston - super - Mare

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1943-44.

Chairman : Councillor W. B. CRAIG.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor MRS. D. A. WHEELER.

Alderman H. BUTT	Councillor A. J. HEYBYRNE
Alderman B. T. BUTTER	Councillor A. M. CRIDDLE
Alderman R. HOSKEN	Councillor H. DODGSON
Councillor Mrs. M. BROWN	Councillor T. W. R. PROCTOR
Councillor V. W. ALLEN	Councillor G. WOOD

His Worship the Mayor, Alderman P. E. CULLING, J.P.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, 1943-44.

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. D. A. WHEELER.

All Members of the Public Health Committee, with the following co-opted ladies :—

MRS. M. T. PAGE (Vice-Chairman)	MRS. A. J. HEYBYRNE
MRS. J. L. EDMUNDS	MRS. M. E. LUCAS
	MRS. A. MACFARLANE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, SUPERINTENDENT OF ISOLATION HOSPITAL AND BOROUGH MATERNITY HOSPITAL AND BOROUGH METEOROLOGIST.

CYRIL G. EASTWOOD, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER :

M. GROLMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

H. W. BLADON, F.S.I.A., cert.R.S.I.

ABATTOIR SUPERINTENDENT AND SANITARY INSPECTOR :

I. A. STEPHENSON, cert.R.S.I. & S.I.J.B., MEAT & FOODS
cert.R.S.I.

SANITARY INSPECTORS :

C. E. URCH, cert.R.S.I., MEAT & FOODS cert.R.S.I.

W. W. WHITE, cert.R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. exam., MEAT & FOODS
cert.R.S.I., cert. INST. OF PUBLIC CLEANSING (salvage), Cert.
LONDON CITY & GUILDS (Plumbing), cert. RUTHERFORD
COLLEGE (Building Construction).

SENIOR HEALTH VISITOR :

MISS E. SWIFT, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.cert.

HEALTH VISITORS :

MISS G. M. HARVEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.cert.

MISS M. HEAFEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.cert.

MISS K. HALSTEAD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.cert.

MISS B. M. WEBBER, S.C.M., L.C.A.T.M.

MATRONS :

Isolation Hospital : MISS R. WHITTAKER, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M.

Borough Maternity Hospital : MISS I. M. GOVIER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Glenelg Sick Bay and Emergency Isolation Hospital :

MRS. M. C. McCLELLAND, S.R.N.

Tralee Sick Bay : MISS D. SYDENHAM, S.R.N.

Neva Road Nursery : MRS. M. M. MILLER, S.R.N.

Beaconsfield Road Nursery : MISS A. M. TERRY, CERT.N.S.D.N.
(until July 15th, 1944).

MISS E. HENDRY, R.F.N. (from July 15th, 1944).

SUPERINTENDENT OF NURSERIES : MISS M. A. O'BRIEN.

WARDENS :

Neva Road Nursery : MRS. J. MIDDLE.

Beaconsfield Road Nursery : MISS L. GOLDSMITH.

Good Shepherd Nursery : MRS. P. SHACKLEFORD.

Milton Hill Nursery : MISS E. M. WEEKS.

CHIEF CLERK : MISS D. B. POWELL.

SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

MISS E. NICHOLLS.

NURSING STAFF : 46.

CLERICAL, DOMESTIC AND MISCELLANEOUS : 40.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
THE TOWN HALL,
WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my fourth Annual Report. In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health, the report again appears in very brief form, but I have every hope that the next Annual Report will be more detailed and that I shall be able to present, in a full and attractive manner, information about the Health Services of the Borough which has necessarily been withheld during the war years.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CYRIL G. EASTWOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistical Summary, 1944.

AREA (including foreshore)	7,006 Acres
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POPULATION :

1931 census	31,706
Registrar-General's estimate for 1944	37,930

LIVE BIRTHS :	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	303	310	613
Illegitimate	25	31	56
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
	328	341	669

BIRTH RATE : 17·6.

STILL BIRTHS :	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	9	7	16
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
	10	7	17

STILL BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 total births) : 24·8

DEATHS :	Male.	Female.	Total.
	233	305	538
DEATH RATE : 14.2.			
PUERPERAL DEATHS :			
From puerperal sepsis ...	...	...	2
From other maternal causes ...	...	...	1
	Total	...	3
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths of infants under one year of age) :			
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	47.8
Rate for all legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	...	...	47.3
Rate for all illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	...	...	53.6
OTHER DEATHS :			
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	...	82
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	...	...	2

I. Vital Statistics.

REGISTERED BIRTHS.—After allowing for inward and outward transfers, the Registrar-General credited the Borough with 669 live births for 1944, 328 were males and 341 females. Of these, 56 were illegitimate (25 males and 31 females). The registered number of still births was 17 (10 males and 7 females) of which number 1 male was illegitimate.

The birth rate for 1944 was 17.6 per 1,000 of the population, which is higher than that for last year (15.6) but the same as that for the country as a whole (17.6).

DEATHS.—575 deaths were registered as having occurred in the Borough during the year. After deducting the deaths of 110 non-residents and adding the deaths of 73 normal residents which took place outside the Borough, the net total comes to 538 Weston deaths. Of these, 233 were males and 305 females.

The number of deaths in the four quarters of the year were :—First quarter 149, second quarter 141, third quarter 110 and fourth quarter 135.

The following tables show the causes of death and the sex and age distribution of deaths :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.					1943.	
					Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	Total	538	233	305
1	Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers	...			—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...			7	7
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	5	—
8	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	1	1
9	Influenza	...	...	...	—	2
10	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
11	Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
12	Acute infantile encephalitis	...	...	...	—	1
13	Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M.), uterus (F.)	...	...	...	3	8
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...			5	6
15	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	—	9
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	18	33
17	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	2
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	34	36
19	Heart disease	...	...	...	57	97
20	Other diseases of the circulatory system...				4	3
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	17	12
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	6
23	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	2	6
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...			3	1
25	Diarrhœa under 2 years	...	...	...	1	1
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	2	1
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	5	14
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	15	10
29	Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	...			—	2
30	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	—	1
31	Premature births	...	...	...	3	8
32	Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases	...	...	...	9	6
33	Suicide	...	...	...	1	2
34	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	2	—
35	Other violent causes	...	...	...	10	1
36	All other causes	...	...	...	22	29
Special causes (included in No. 36 above)—						
	Small-pox	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year		Total	...	...	14	18
		Legitimate	...	...	12	17
		Illegitimate	...	...	2	1

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1944.

Ages at Death in Years.			Males	Females.	Total.
Under 1	...	...	14	18	32
1 to 9	...	...	4	3	7
10 to 24	...	...	4	3	7
25 to 44	...	...	12	16	28
45 to 64	...	...	48	52	100
65 to 69	...	...	33	36	69
			—115	—128	—243
70 to 74	...	...	52	45	97
75 to 79	...	...	26	43	69
80 to 84	...	...	24	43	67
85 to 89	...	...	13	30	43
90 to 94	...	...	2	12	14
95 to 99	...	...	—	2	2
			—117	—175	—292
			<u>232</u>	<u>303</u>	<u>535</u>

INFANT MORTALITY.—The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age, registered during the year, was 32 (14 male and 18 female). Of these, 2 males and 1 female were illegitimate. These 32 deaths represent an infant mortality rate of 47·8.

INQUESTS.—Inquests held by the Coroner in the Borough during the year numbered 36, of which 27 were upon residents of Weston-super-Mare and 9 upon non-residents. The causes of death in respect of residents are set out in the following table :—

Causes of Death.			Males.	Females.	Total.
Natural Causes	...	...	5	7	12
Strangulation	...	...	—	—	—
Accidents : Burns	...	...	—	1	1
Falls	...	...	1	—	1
Falls from height			2	—	2
By moving machinery			2	—	2
Drowning	...		2	—	2
Strangulation	...		1	—	1
Poisoning : Coal gas	...	...	1	—	1
Motor car fumes			—	—	—
Arsenic	...	...	1	—	1
During Operations	...	...	—	—	—
In Motor Vehicles	...	...	—	—	—
By Motor Vehicles	...	...	1	—	1
Suicide : Drowning	...	...	1	—	1
Hanging	...	...	—	—	—
Poisoning : Coal gas			—	2	2
Motor gas fumes	...		—	—	—
Jumping from height			—	—	—
Found Drowned	...	...	—	—	—
			<u>17</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>27</u>

II. General Health Services, etc.

The general services of the Department of Public Health were maintained throughout the year and various alterations and additions are noted under the appropriate headings throughout this Report. One or two matters follow in this section, however, which cannot be dealt with appropriately elsewhere.

ABATTOIR.—During the year a new weighing machine was installed at the Abattoir which greatly facilitates the work there, reducing the amount of manipulation and time required for weighing carcasses very considerably. A compressed air Calf Blower was also installed to enable the skin to be separated from the carcasses more expeditiously.

CLEANSING STATION.—Earlier in the war a Cleansing Station had been established at the Isolation Hospital to deal with cases of personal infestation as part of the Evacuation Service. Early in 1944 this Station was brought under the direction of the Matron of the Hospital, and henceforward formed part of the ordinary Health Services, ceasing to be a separate Evacuation Institution.

WATER SUPPLY.—At the request of the Minister of Health, some notes upon the water supply are included in this Report.

The supply during the year has been satisfactory, both in regard to quality and quantity. No bacteriological examination was made on the raw spring water at Banwell (from which the principal supply is derived), but a bacteriological examination of the raw water from the Old Weston Well (occasionally used as a source of supply) was taken and the results were satisfactory. A chloramine process is in operation at the Water Works, Milton Road, and during the year 47 bacteriological examinations were made, at regular intervals, of the water going into the town mains, with satisfactory results in each case. A weekly examination is made of the water as it comes from the tap to the consumer, and throughout the year an invariable high standard has been maintained.

The water appears to have no plumbo-solvent action.

All houses in the Borough have a piped supply with the exception of twelve cottages at Norton and six on Bleadon Hill. There are, however, 42 houses on Bleadon Hill with a piped supply from a separate small water undertaking which are not connected with the Corporation mains. No houses are supplied by means of stand-pipes.

The following is a typical analysis :—

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.

(Values in parts per 100,000.)

Reaction (pH value)	...	...	...	7.4
Chlorine (as chlorides)	...	...	...	1.3=NaCl 2.22
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	0.04
Sulphuric Acid (SO ₃)	...	...	...	1.37
Nitric Acid (N ₂ O ₅)	...	...	...	0.46
Nitrites	...	...	...	Faint trace
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.002
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate at 80°F.				
in 4 hours	...	...	...	0.02
in 15 minutes	...	...	...	0.003
Total Solids dried at 212°F.	...	...	...	25.3
Loss on ignition	...	...	...	5.4
Appearance of solids on heating	...	...	...	No change
Hardness—total	...	...	...	19.6
temporary	...	...	...	16.8
permanent	...	...	...	2.8
Heavy metals	...	...	...	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Total number of organisms growing on agar at 22°C.	...	...	...	1 per ml.
Ditto at blood heat	...	...	...	less than 1 per ml.
Number of coli-ærogenes bacteria per 100 ml.	...	...	...	None

ANALYST'S REMARKS.—These results are satisfactory throughout. The water is free from any sign of pollution whether organic or inorganic and the bacteriological results are good. The water is almost sterile. We are of opinion that it is of a high degree of purity and quite suitable for all domestic purposes.

The following statistics show the work carried out at the various institutions and centres attached to the Department, excluding those which are noted under other headings subsequently :—

Isolation Hospital : Admissions during 1944	...	...	134
Glenelg Sick Bay : Admissions during 1944	...	...	182
Glenelg Auxiliary Isolation Section : Admissions during 1944	...	...	102
Tralee Sick Bay : Admissions during 1944	...	...	79
Beaumont Sick Bay : Admissions during 1944	...	...	37
Cleansing Station : Patients treated during 1944	...	...	792
Minor Ailments' Clinic : Attendances during 1944	...	...	355

All the other general health services were maintained throughout the year.

III. Infectious Disease.

The following table sets out particulars of infectious disease occurring in the Borough during the year :—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	99	95	—
Diphtheria	5	7	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	2	1	—
Pneumonia	24	5	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	2	2
Erysipelas	8	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	—
Measles	30	1	—
Whooping Cough	70	2	—
Scabies	—	1	—
Chickenpox	—	3	—
Pleurisy	—	1	—
German Measles	—	2	—
Hæmolytic Throat	—	3	—
Observation	—	4	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	—	—
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary ...	54	—	14
Non-Pulmonary ...	9	2	5

IV. Diphtheria Immunisation.

The usual publicity by means of leaflets distributed in the town was continued during the year but the main effort took a new form.

During January, February and early March a complete list was compiled (by members of the W.V.S. from information supplied by the Food Office) of all children under five years of age in the town. The Health Visitors then conducted a house-to-house campaign, approaching the parents of each child individually, finding out which children had not been immunised and urging the value of immunisation in these cases. This campaign was not only useful in securing increased attendance at the Immunisation Clinics, but also provided valuable information about the extent of immunisation amongst the child population. At the end of the year it appeared that 90 per cent. of children under five years of age had been immunised, and 60 per cent. of those between the ages of 5 and 15, as nearly as could be estimated.

The practice of sending a birthday card on each child's first birthday pointing out the value of immunisation against diphtheria was continued throughout the year.

The following table shows the progress of immunisation against diphtheria :—

	Immunisation completed during 1944.	
	Under 5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.
Number of children	598	204
Percentage of children in each of the two age groups	23·7%	5·3%

V. Maternity and Child Welfare.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION.—Accommodation is provided for normal confinements at Allandale Maternity Home, while abnormal cases are admitted to the Maternity Ward of the General Hospital.

The Council has an arrangement whereby an Obstetric Consultant can be called in by any doctor in respect of a case of abnormal pregnancy or labour.

The following table shows the admissions to maternity beds at Allandale and the General Hospital :—

	Number of Beds.	Number of Patients admitted during 1944.
Allandale... ..	13	262
General Hospital Maternity Ward	5 (available to the Borough Council)	60

HEALTH VISITING.—The following table shows the work of the Health Visitors during the year :—

	Infants under 1 year.			Children 1—5 yrs.	Ante-natal.			Child Life Protection Visits.
	First Visits.	Other Visits.	Total.		First Visits.	Other Visits.	Total.	
Residents ...	719	3,244	3,963	6,843	383	683	1,067	395
Evacuees ...	28	155	183	355	37	54	91	1

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION.—For a quarter of a century the Maternity and Child Welfare clinics of the town have been organised by the Weston-super-Mare Maternity and Child Welfare Association, a voluntary body which has latterly received an annual grant from the Council.

On April 1st, 1944, the provision of Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Clinics was taken over by the Borough Council as a direct service, the Maternity and Child Welfare Association continuing to give voluntary assistance at each session. The hours of clinics during the year were as follow and, in addition to those previously provided by the Welfare Association, a new weekly session was operated at the Baptist Church School, Baytree Road, from June 6th.

Ante-Natal Clinics held at The Church Institute, The Boulevard on Tuesday at 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and Wednesday at 10.0 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

Infant Welfare Clinics held at The Church Institute, The Boulevard, on Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m. and Friday at 11.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.

Also at the Congregational Schoolroom, Moorland Road, Thursday, 2.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

Also at the Baptist Church Hall, Baytree Road, Wednesday, 2.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

The following table summarises the work done during the year :—

BOULEVARD CENTRE.

INFANT WELFARE.

Total number of children who first attended during 1944 :

(a) Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	300
(b) Over 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	100
Total attendances	...	...	...	...	...	4,183

ANTE-NATAL.

Weston mothers (excluding 39 out of district)	331
Number of attendances	1,418

POST-NATAL	10
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MOORLAND ROAD CLINIC.

Children who first attended during 1944 :

(a) Under 1 year	144
(b) Over 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	66
Total attendances ..	..	...	...	...	...	1,781

BAYTREE ROAD CLINIC.

Children who first attended during 1944 :

(a) Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	124
(b) Over 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	140
Total attendances	...	...	...	...	...	2,000
Total number of children attending three Clinics under						
one year on December 31st, 1944	...	...	...	...	...	549
Total number under 5 years on December 31st, 1944	...	...	...	...	...	1,824

SPECIAL CLINICS AND WELFARE PROVISIONS.

Attendance of children under 5 at Dental Clinic	...	...	...	8
Mothers who attended Dental Clinic	...	...	...	66
Number of patients provided with dentures	...	...	...	11

DENTAL TREATMENT.	Mothers.		Children.	
	Weston.	Evacuees.	Weston.	Evacuees.
Extractions	165	6	21	7
Fillings	51	10	4	2
Dentures : Upper	11	1	—	—
Lower	11	—	—	—
Scalings	10	—	—	—
Anæsthetics : Ethyl Chlor.	—	—	8	2
N ₂ OxO ₂	31	3	1	—
Patients seen	56	7	9	2
Repairs to Dentures	1	—	—	—

Number of children referred for orthopædic X-Ray	...	...	5
Number of children under 5 referred to Orthopædic Clinic	...	...	54
Number of patients provided with orthopædic appliances	...	...	5
Number of patients admitted to Bath Orthopædic Hospital	...	...	2
Number of children referred to Massage Clinic	...	...	10
Number of children referred to Artificial Sunlight Clinic	...	...	77
Cases where special nourishment was supplied	...	...	—

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS, ETC.—Four cases of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred during the year.

During the year 16 cases of children under five years of age were referred to the County Oculist on account of defective vision or squint.

HOME HELP SCHEME.—The Home Help scheme instituted in 1943 continued in operation, but was still greatly handicapped by a shortage of suitable women prepared to act as Home Helps. Since the close of the year 1944, and at the time of writing this Report, the position is showing distinct signs of improvement.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.—Early in 1945 the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Council asked for a special report on the work of the Department under the Child Life Protection sections of the Public Health Act, 1936. The year 1944 was taken as being the last complete year for which figures were available, and the report was as follows :—

POSITION ON MARCH 1ST, 1945.

Number of Foster Mothers on Register	...	...	...	20
Number of Foster Mothers who have children	...	...	...	11
Number of Foster Children	...	...	...	25
Number cared for without payment	...	...	...	2

It will be seen that all the registered Foster Mothers do not, in point of fact, take charge of children, and this, of course, is entirely a matter for themselves, registration merely being the Council's approval for their taking children for payment if they so desire. The Foster Mother herself decides whether she is able or willing to make arrangements, which she regards as satisfactory, with some person who requires to have her children looked after. Each year, however, the register is revised, and any woman who is not caring for children is approached to see if she is likely to do so in the near future, or if in the circumstances, registration should be withdrawn from her.

It will also be seen from the table that some Foster Mothers care for more than one child. The numbers are swollen in this respect by the inclusion of a Home in the town, where ten children under the age of nine are cared for. As this is a charitable institution run by the Church of England, it is doubtful whether, in law, we have any obligation, or even right, to supervise these children, but we do so by amicable arrangement between ourselves and the authorities of the Home.

The following table shows the visits paid each month during 1944 in connection with Child Life Protection, as reported to the Committee in each monthly report.

January	...	...	...	57
February	...	...	...	29
March	...	...	...	46
April	...	...	...	26
May	...	...	...	37
June	...	...	...	26
July	...	...	...	25
August	...	...	...	24
September	...	...	...	45
October	...	...	...	27
November	...	...	...	29
December	...	...	...	25
Total	...	...	...	<u>396</u>
Average	...	...	...	33 visits per month

As there are 25 registered Foster Children on our books and 396 visits are paid in a year (1944 being a perfectly normal year, which may be regarded as typical), it follows that (on an average) each individual child is visited 15.8 times per year, or in round figures, 16 times a year. This means that each child is visited (approximately) just over once every three weeks.

In point of fact, older children, particularly those in very satisfactory homes, are visited less often than the average, but young children under one year are frequently visited oftener than once in three weeks.

It is instructive to compare the foregoing figures with those for the country in general. Most Authorities find that it is sufficient if each foster child is visited, on an average, once every two months, as against our average of about once in every three weeks. Our figure is exceptionally favourable owing to the particular care which we have considered desirable in connection with this work during the recent unsettled years, when so many children have been "fostered" for short periods only and continual movement of children has taken place : many being subsequently adopted.

THE CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.—The problem of illegitimacy has not been so great in Weston-super-Mare as to justify elaborate provisions being made to deal with it. The Weston-super-Mare Moral Welfare Society employ an experienced Moral Welfare worker who maintains a close liaison with the Council's Health Visitors. Whenever an expectant mother of an illegitimate child is discovered she is referred to this Society.

THE CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.—Arrangements have been made for doctors and midwives, in giving notification of births to the Medical Officer of Health, to include additional information in the case of a premature birth or in any case where the child weighs 5½lbs. or less. The Department of Public Health has available for loan in special cases hot water bottles, electric blanket pads, and a special cot. Home Helps are also provided as far as the shortage of suitable women permits.

VI. War-time Nurseries.

In October arrangements were finally made for providing a hot mid-day dinner at the two part-time nurseries, Milton Hill and the Good Shepherd Hall. The meals are obtained from the British Restaurant and delivered to the nurseries in one of the Council's own vehicles, being kept warm in special heated containers.

At the end of the year the Ministry of Health intimated that the Government could no longer be responsible for financing Milton Hill Nursery as, although it was performing a useful function in the town, it was no longer fulfilling its original purpose of catering for the children of mothers engaged on recognised war work. Fortunately Southlands Training College, which has been in Weston-super-Mare during the war years, was desirous of opening a Nursery Training Department and running a model nursery in connection with this. With the approval of the Ministry of Health, the Council was able to hand over the operation of this nursery to the Training College, thereby giving them what they needed for training purposes and securing the continuance of a nursery in the Milton area. The transfer came into effect on December 31st, 1944.

The following table shows the work of the nurseries :—

Nursery.	Average Daily Attendance.
Neva Road (full time)	35
Beaconsfield Road (full time)	24
The Good Shepherd Hall (part time)	18
Milton Hill (part time)	22

VII. Sanitary Work.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1944. In view of my pending retirement on July 2nd, 1945, this will be the last of a series of 26 reports commencing with the year 1919.

In anticipation of my retirement, I advised the Council to consider, at an early date, the appointment of a successor in office in order that he might have the advantage of an accumulated experience relating to the local conditions, the peculiar needs of the district and, thereby, provide for a continuity and improvement of the department work without a break.

The cumulative developments brought on by the conditions of the years of war have to a very considerable extent

interfered with normal work and procedure. There has been the consequent difficulty of obtaining necessary labour and repair supplies which has very materially interfered with housing repair procedure. At the same time much extra incidental work has arisen which has required a considerable amount of time and attention and so interfered with usual routine work and procedure.

COURT AND STATUTORY PROCEEDINGS.

There were no Court Proceedings taken during the year.

Statutory notices served	6
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HOUSING.

One house was repaired under statutory notice and 189 after informal action.

VERMIN INFESTATION.

The following action was taken :—

Treatments—Primary	...	...	...	26
„ Secondary	...	...	...	18
„ Preventive	...	...	...	2
„ to rooms	...	...	...	83

The methods of treatment used for disinfection are :—
(1) Ris ; (2) Killgercide ; (3) Zaldecide ; (4) the use of fumigants in conjunction with the above preparations.

OVERCROWDING.

The Borough's housing accommodation has again been heavily taxed, many houses have been sublet, and consequently a certain amount of latitude has had to be allowed. Constantly changing conditions have made it very difficult to keep in touch with all the cases which have arisen, but every effort on the part of the Public Health, Housing and Evacuation Departments has been made to deal with bad cases of overcrowding.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Only one complaint was received. This was appropriately dealt with.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Weston-super-Mare cannot be regarded as a heavily infested town. This Corporation has made every effort to do its work under the Act and to co-operate in every way with the National Campaign which is backed by the Ministry of Food and its officers.

In February last a Rodent Operator was appointed to work under my direction. This Operator has done very effective work in disinfesting all classes of property, both publicly and privately owned, and comprising houses, shops, factories, tips, hedges, ditches, banks, etc., etc.

Your town tips have been regularly treated and the work done has resulted in the reduction of tip infestation to a very low point. The recurrent lighting up of fresh infestations has been constantly watched for and immediate action taken.

At the outset of the local campaign, in order to obtain the co-operation of the general public, most treatments were applied free of charge. Subsequently, appropriate charges were made for treatments undertaken by this Department, and notices served for the rat proofing of premises.

A scheme of sewer treatment has, in conjunction with this Department, been prepared by the Borough Surveyor and is now awaiting the sanction of the Ministry of Food. The pre-baiting and poison baiting of approximately 1,400 sewer manholes, after appropriate adaptation, is involved. A grant in aid will be made by the Government.

FACTORIES, SHOPS, ETC.

There are on the register 131 power factories and 93 non-power factories. Routine notices were served twice yearly for the limewashing and cleansing of bakehouses, and the works were carried out.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.	No. of Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories with mechanical power	285	110
Factories without mechanical power	41	14
TOTAL	326	124

	Defects Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.
Want of cleanliness	124	124	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—
Drainage of floors	1	1	—
Sanitary conveniences—			
Insufficient	1	1	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	—	—
No separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences	3	3	—

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Sanitary conveniences provided ... 1

HOLIDAY CAMPING GROUNDS.

The number of camps licensed during the year was six. In view of certain difficulties that have arisen, the "conditions" attached to your form of licence will be amended during the forthcoming year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are eight fish friers in the Borough. Of these, four were licensed annually. A gut scrapers' business is carried on at the Public Abattoir and there is a fellmongers' business and salvage factory established at Rickett's Lane, Worle. In respect of the latter, a fume nuisance arose from the salvage plant exhaust. The proprietor of this factory undertook to instal a scrubber and chlorination plant. This plant has been delivered on the site and the chlorination pond constructed. The works will be completed early in the new year, 1945. It is contemplated that this installation will effectively prevent a further exhaust fume nuisance from recurring.

SUMMARY OF VISITS

by Sanitary Inspector's Staff (not including Health Visitors).

Total number of inspections and visits ...	...	...	7,453
Nuisances or complaints ...	...	...	950
Work ordered ...	...	...	885
Work in progress ...	...	...	360
Drainage tests visits :—			
Smoke tests at existing buildings ...	...	...	14
Water tests at existing buildings ...	...	...	17
Inspection of concrete in connection with drains ...	...	...	16

Dwelling houses :—

Number inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	...	...	349
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	406
Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925 ...	...	...	1
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	2
Number of housing inspections <i>re</i> (miscellaneous matters) ...	...	...	96
Housing inspections <i>re</i> infectious diseases ...	...	...	120
Number of houses inspected <i>re</i> vermin ...	...	...	56
Number of houses re-inspected <i>re</i> vermin ...	...	...	29
Number of houses inspected <i>re</i> overcrowding ...	...	...	17
Number of houses re-inspected <i>re</i> overcrowding ...	...	...	5
Number of re-inspections after service of notices P.H.A., 1936 ...	...	...	50

Interviews with agents, owners, contractors, etc.	...	1,043
Factory inspection—Power	... ..	285
Non-power	... ..	41
Bakehouses	... ..	74
Outworkers	... ..	2
Shops Act inspections	... ..	6
Cowsheds and farm inspections	... ..	279
Dairies and milkshops inspections	... ..	175
Ice cream shops and premises inspected	... ..	2
Butchers' shops and Abattoir inspections	... ..	1,159
Food shops and food premises	... ..	662
Offensive trades inspections	... ..	116
Tents, vans and sheds inspections	... ..	53
Inspections <i>re</i> manure pits	... ..	6
Inspections of premises where animals are kept	... ..	101
Inspections of public and private refuse tips	... ..	30
Refuse bin inspections	... ..	4
Smoke abatement inspections	... ..	4
Public buildings inspections (including licensed amusement premises)	... ..	47
Rat and mice infestation inspections	... ..	1,892
Cesspool inspections	... ..	27
Miscellaneous visits	... ..	2,268
Petrol store inspections	... ..	58

WORK DONE.

Houses repaired (Housing and Public Health Acts)	...	189
Houses repaired formally under Housing Acts	...	1
Houses cleansed and decorated	... ..	11
Rooms repaired	... ..	100
Roofs repaired or stripped and retiled or reslated	... ..	49
Floors relaid or repaired	... ..	148
Skirtings, etc., renewed or repaired	... ..	1
Fire grates renewed or repaired	... ..	8
Doors repaired or new ones fixed	... ..	9
Stairs renewed or repaired	... ..	2
Windows renewed or repaired	... ..	14
Ventilations and/or lighting improved	... ..	5
Plastering of walls and/or ceilings repaired or stripped	...	25
Rain water spouting or guttering repaired or renewed	...	25
Rain water cisterns repaired, abolished or new fixed	...	7
Walls pointed and repaired or rendered	... ..	7
External plaster repaired or re-rendered	... ..	1
Chimney stacks and flues repaired or rebuilt	... ..	5
Sanitary sinks provided	... ..	8
Yards paved, repaired or relaid	... ..	13
Tenants required to amend conditions	... ..	57

Houses, etc., treated for primary infestation or for precautionary purposes	...	...	...	...	28
Rooms, etc., treated for primary infestation or for precautionary purposes	...	...	...	...	83
Refuse bins provided	...	...	...	...	19

Factory and Workshops : See page 17 Factory and Workshops Report.

Cowsheds :—

Approaches improved	...	...	...	...	1
Contraventions	...	...	...	...	4
Sanitary and structural conditions improved	...	...	...	...	1
Trade premises :—Sanitary conditions improved	...	...	...	...	16
Accumulations of manure or offensive matter removed	...	...	...	...	6
Animals and poultry :—Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	6
Rats and mice infestation :—Premises dealt with	...	...	...	...	246

Drainage :—

Drains relaid at existing houses	...	...	...	...	11
Drains cleared and cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	108
Drains trapped and properly ventilated	...	...	...	...	7
Premises supplied with additional drainage	...	...	...	...	7
Additional drains provided	...	...	...	...	11
New drain inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	14
Premises supplied with additional water closets	...	...	...	...	8
Additional water closets provided	...	...	...	...	8
Water closets or urinals repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	52
New water closet pedestals fixed	...	...	...	...	24
New water closet flushing cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	16
New baths fixed	...	...	...	...	4
New lavatory basins fixed	...	...	...	...	17
Soil pipes and drain ventilators repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Soil pipes and drain ventilators fixed	...	...	...	...	3
Waste pipes fixed, repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	21
Nuisances from overflowing cesspools abated	...	...	...	...	6
Accumulations of rubbish removed	41

Smoke or fumes :—Nuisances abated or complaints dealt with	1
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Tents and Vans :—Nuisances abated	2
-----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Infectious Disease Disinfections, etc. :—					Rooms.	Articles.
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	16	201
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	22	106
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	110	845
Non-notifiable	...	...	...	...	24	4,650
Scabies	...	...	...	...	7	565
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	1	40
Measles	...	...	...	...	0	108
Venereal Disease	...	...	...	...	1	8
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1	9
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1	8
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	0	11
Vermin	...	...	...	...	102	232
					<hr/> 285	<hr/> 6,783
					<hr/>	<hr/>

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

PARTICULARS OF REGISTER.

Number of producers on the Register	...	...	...	24
Number of distributors, divided as follows :—				
(including 14 who trade from outside the Borough)				
A. Distributors only	...	...	...	53
B. Distributors who are also producers	...	...	...	10
(A producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers.)				
Number of licences given to Graded Milk Distributors :—				
Supplementary Certified Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	2
Supplementary Pasteurised	...	...	...	1
There is only one accredited milk producer in the district.				

For the purpose of control, the following samples were submitted to the County Bacteriologist for his report :—

Herd milk for the presence of T.B.	...	...	...	25
(T.B. not present 24, negative 1)				
Pasteurised (satisfactory 4, complied, but were the subject of comments by the Bacteriologist 4)	...	...	...	8
Bacterial examination (good 38, fair 18, poor 11, bad 6, very bad 4)...	...	...	...	77

As a result of observations, inspection and sampling, following up work was undertaken in conjunction with the Bristol Corporation, the Somerset County Council and the Axbridge Rural District Council for the purpose of improving the milk supply produced in the Borough and imported into this Borough from adjacent areas. On the whole it can confidently be stated that there has been an improvement, both in milk production and milk handling. There is, however,

much room for improvement. Certain retail dairy premises will have to be reconstructed after hostilities cease, and it is hoped to obtain the general installation of steam sterilising plants at all dairies.

MEAT AND FOOD CONTROL.

The practice of traders in calling in the Sanitary Inspector for the issue of voluntary surrender notes for unsound food stuffs has greatly developed during the war years and is likely to become a permanent feature of food inspection work. This method enables the trader to obtain the necessary credits and recovery of point values without the necessity of keeping offensive stock on his premises pending the visits of trade representatives.

Again, light or defective packing, prolonged and defective storage, and difficult transport conditions have resulted in a certain amount of spoilage.

All suitable condemned foods are salvaged for animals feeding.

The number of premises on the register for the preparation of pickled, preserved, etc., meats is 44.

I have to thank food traders for their willing co-operation in the work of food control.

PUBLIC ABATTOIRS.

There has been no alteration in the area supplied from the "Area Slaughtering Place," the Public Abattoir. This area of supply reaches from Glastonbury, Wells and Bridgwater to Clevedon and Portishead, and includes the Rural District of Axbridge, and has a population of about 250,000.

ORIGIN OF TUBERCULAR SLAUGHTERED COWS AND CALVES.

In accordance with the practice which has been carried out for many years, the appropriate Regional and County Officers have, for the purpose of tracing the dams (and accompanied with the relative identification matter) been notified of cases of tubercular conditions found in slaughtered calves.

As an instance of this feature, I quote an interesting case :—

A calf was slaughtered and the post-mortem examination demonstrated a generalised tubercular condition. The dam was traced by the Veterinary Officer and found to be in a fair condition and showing no clinical signs of T.B. A vaginal swab was taken which proved positive. This animal was sent in for slaughter and on post-mortem

inspection was found to be affected with advanced generalised tuberculosis, including affections of the uterus and ovaries.

It is also our practice to notify the Regional Veterinary Officers of cases where a tubercular condition of the udder is found. The information as to both these above conditions enables the Veterinary Officers the more effectively to carry out procedure under the Tuberculosis Order and to follow up cases where a failure to notify under the Order has taken place.

The above remarks may be cited as instances of effective co-operation between your officers and the various authorities concerned.

The Representatives of the Ministries of Food and Agriculture and Fisheries have from time to time expressed their satisfaction with regard to the co-operation of the Abattoir Superintendent and other officers and for the services extended at the Public Abattoir and Cattle Market.

The following salvage was handed on to the Ministry of Food's agents for residual recovery purposes :—

		Tons.	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Condemned meat ...	...	127	9	2	22
Non-edible offals, etc. ...	...	335	0	1	20
TOTAL ...		462	10	0	14

ANIMALS KILLED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIRS.

		1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Pigs ...	...	4,413	3,964	3,653	6,021	4,875	1,026	630	445
Sheep ...	...	9,943	10,696	12,919	47,238	46,089	50,384	41,115	45,626
Calves ...	...	939	835	857	3,448	5,977	7,839	10,336	12,143
Beasts ...	...	1,313	1,183	1,365	7,252	10,215	7,856	10,071	10,814

Difference from the year 1943 :—

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	All Animals.
+743	+1,807	+2,511	—185	net 4,616

The income from slaughtering charges, tolls and rentals was as follows :—

1940	...	...	...	...	£3,718	17	0
1941	...	...	...	...	£4,107	9	2
1942	...	...	...	...	£3,859	11	4
1943	...	...	...	...	£4,489	11	1
1944, including rentals and tolls as below					£4,789	11	2
Rentals Abattoir					£219	5	0
Rentals Cattle Market					£188	0	0
Market Tolls					£61	1	4

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, including Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	10,814	12,143	43,626	445
Number inspected	10,814	12,143	43,626	445
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.				
Whole carcasses condemned	22	2	61	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,124	28	164	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	10·5	·24	·51	4·7
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.				
Whole carcasses condemned	274	2	1	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,450	2	—	77
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	34·4%	·03%	·002%	17·7%

DISEASED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The total weight of diseased, unsound or injured meat and organs condemned was :—

Tuberculosis :—

	Tons.	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons.	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef and organs, including 274 carcasses and 76 quarters	80	1	2	20				
Pigs and organs, including 2 carcasses		7	3	17				
Sheep and Lambs , including 1 carcase and offal ...			1	2				
Veal , 2 carcasses			2	14				

Total weight of tuber- culous meat ...					80	10	1	25
Non-Tuberculous Meat :—								
Beef and organs	29	1	2	16				
Pigs and organs		5	2	10				
Sheep and Lambs , including 62 carcasses and organs ...	1	19	3	26				
Veal		1	2	22				
Total weight of non- tuberculous meat ...					31	8	3	18
Total weight of all con- demned meat ...					111	19	1	15

UN SOUND FOODS CONDEMNED IN THE TOWN.

	Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat. —Beef, Pork, Lamb or Mutton	2	2	7½
Fish—various	7	2	3
Bacon		1	16¼
	10	1	26¾

Sausages	120 lbs.
Sweets (various)	56 lbs.
Flour	9 lbs.
Sugar	32 lbs.
Peas	16 lbs.
Ground Ginger	2 lbs.
Dried Fruit	13 lbs.
Fruit (various)	47 lbs.
Figs	1 cwt. 1 qr.

Wheat Flakes	...	...	...	...	62 cartons
Marmite	...	...	...	...	1 jar
Pickles	...	...	...	...	4 jars
Mustard	...	...	...	...	5 jars
Jams	...	...	...	...	5 jars
Fruit Sauce	...	...	...	...	1 jar
Smoked Roe	...	...	...	...	1 jar
Pea Nut Butter	...	...	...	...	3 jars
CANNED GOODS.					
Meat (various)	...	...	...	...	319 cans or cartons
Fish (various)	...	...	...	...	387 cans
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	276 „
Milk	...	...	...	...	762 „
Soups	...	...	...	...	27 „
Fruit	...	...	...	...	142 „
Jams	...	...	...	...	70 „
Sweets	...	...	...	...	6 „
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	24 „
Pickles	...	...	...	...	3 „
Salts and Mustard	...	...	...	...	121 „
Stuffing	...	...	...	...	7 „
Cake Mixture	...	...	...	...	66 „

A.R.P. FOOD DECONTAMINATION.

With the change over in the control of the organisation from the District Council to the County Council, it soon became evident that the Food Squad's interest and attendance was very unsatisfactory and representation had to be made to the County Council on the matter. There was no consequent improvement in attendance at the arranged exercises and demonstrations. At the latter end of the year, owing to changed war position and the extreme shortage of man-power, it was decided not to press the matter further. It was considered that, should an emergency arise, the previously enrolled squad members, mostly from the food traders and the personal contacts of your officers would readily respond.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Mr. H. F. Hardiman, the Somerset County Food and Drugs Inspector, has kindly supplied the following statement of the samples of foods, drugs and drinks taken for analysis by the Public Analyst during 1944 :—

Sample taken.	Genuine.			Adulterated.		
12 Milk	12	...	—
2 Lard	2	...	—
2 Butter	2	...	—
5 Sweets	5	...	—

Sample taken.		Genuine.		Adulterated.
1 Non-alcoholic Wine	...	1	...	—
1 Condensed Milk...	...	1	...	—
4 Fish and Meat Paste	...	4	...	—
1 Sauce ...	...	1	...	—
2 Canned Meat	...	2	...	—
3 Jam ...	...	3	...	—
2 Mustard	...	2	...	—
1 Cocoa ...	...	1	...	—
1 Bi-carbonate of Soda	...	1	...	—
1 Boracic Ointment	...	1	...	—
1 Cod Liver Oil	...	1	...	—
1 Canned Fish	...	1	...	—
1 Soup ...	...	1	...	—
1 Flavouring Essence	...	1	...	—

I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and the Mayor and Members of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health and other Members of your Health Department Staff and other Council Officials who have so kindly co-operated in the work of the Department.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

H. W. BLADON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

VIII. Meteorology.

The following table summarises the meteorological observations for the year 1944. The observations are taken at Clarence Park and the Town Hall.

Monthly Results of Climatological Observations, 1944.

1944. MONTH.	AIR TEMPERATURES.							Mean Relative Humidity (9 a.m.).	Mean Amount of Cloud (9 a.m.).	RADIATION. Min. on Grass (means).	RAIN.		SUN. Number of Hours.	Mean Barometer Reading (9 a.m.).
	MEANS.					EXTREMES.					Amount. Inches.	No. of Days with .04 ins. or more.		
	9 a.m.	Max.	Min.	Range.	Mean.	Max.	Min.							
January	44.1	49.1	39.6	9.5	44.4	54.9	27.7	87.1	9.1	36.0	2.35	14	30.6	30.172
February	39.5	44.2	35.6	8.6	39.9	52.5	24.9	78.0	7.4	31.6	.84	6	75.7	30.145
March	42.6	50.1	36.3	13.8	43.2	66.1	27.8	74.5	6.2	31.4	.35	1	165.9	30.166
April	51.6	58.1	44.2	13.9	51.2	65.6	36.1	78.6	7.0	39.1	2.79	8	154.0	30.033
May	55.0	62.2	45.7	16.5	54.0	82.9	34.6	69.1	6.4	39.9	2.48	6	239.5	30.139
June	57.9	63.9	52.1	11.8	58.0	71.9	47.7	78.6	7.7	48.7	3.93	11	179.5	29.932
July	63.0	68.5	57.1	11.4	62.8	79.0	53.0	84.3	8.5	53.5	2.37	13	132.3	29.880
August	64.2	71.4	57.2	14.2	64.3	80.9	49.7	82.5	6.3	54.6	3.16	8	229.3	30.013
September	57.4	64.1	50.8	13.3	57.5	70.1	38.4	77.4	6.6	47.7	3.21	9	157.9	30.013
October	51.0	56.2	46.1	10.1	51.1	61.0	36.2	80.7	7.6	43.0	3.66	15	109.0	29.830
November	46.2	51.6	40.6	11.0	46.1	57.1	27.0	85.2	8.5	38.6	5.81	17	36.6	29.786
December	40.8	46.0	37.3	8.7	41.7	55.9	20.4	86.7	8.1	34.1	2.76	10	62.2	29.949
Means and Totals	51.1	57.1	45.2	11.9	51.2	66.5	35.3	80.2	7.4	41.5	33.71	118	1,572.5	30.005

